

March 14, 2009

SPRINGFIELD, PA—Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) spoke at a banquet held by the Rho Chi Zeta Chapter of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority at the Springfield Country Club on March 14, 2009. The evening showcased the skills and talents that the organization's young women have developed through the Chapter's 9th Annual UPLIFT program, a mentoring program that helps high school girls navigate their teen years.

Congressman Sestak spoke about his own experience serving his community in his youth. "This nation is a nation of service," he said, "built on the foundation of commitment to the common good and prospering through our dedication to our community. The time I spent serving my community in high school profoundly affected my development as an individual and a significant amount of my motivations come from the fundamental lessons of compassion and consideration I learned. Coming together to work for the greater good of our society, so that every individual enjoys the brightest possible experience, is a common goal that every person should strive to adopt. It makes me proud to see what everyone here has achieved tonight."

The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded January 16, 1920, on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., by five women who sought to establish a new organization based on Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood and the ideal of Finer Womanhood. Zeta chapters and auxiliary groups have given many hours of voluntary service to educate the public, assist youth, provide scholarships, support organized charities and promote legislation for social and civic change. The Rho Chi Zeta Chapter in Chester, PA, was chartered on May 26, 2000. After studying the Delaware County community and assessing the concerns of its constituents, the Rho Chi Zeta Chapter took on the challenge of helping to inform, educate, and prepare female high school students for life after graduation.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking*

*former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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